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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/811,730	03/29/2004	Jo Ann Joels	RIC 03 006	1435

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EXAMINER	
ANWARI, MACEEH	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2444	

NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/811,730	JOELS ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	MACEEH ANWARI	2444	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *13 November 2009*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-39* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-39* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is in response to communications file on 11/13/2009. **Claim(s) 1-5, 13-15, 18, 20-24, 27, 31-35 and 37** have been amended. Accordingly, **claim(s) 1- 39** are pending.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

2. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 12/23/2009 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed 11/13/2009 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. In substance the applicant argues that neither **Or** nor **Bowman-Amuah** disclose or teach: A) periodically polling the gateway device to obtain operating related to the communications between the first and second networks, where the operating parameters include at least two of information identifying Internet Key Exchange security associations (IKE SAs) no longer being used, information identifying node throughput, information identifying a number of toggles between an active card and a standby card in the gateway device, or information identifying processor utilization in the gate way device; B) polling a gateway device to obtain node configuration information; C) information related to a flowchache configured to store connection information.

4. In response to A), the examiner respectfully disagrees. The examiner asserts that applicant claims broadly and as such the examiner reserves the right to interpret the claim broadly. Firstly, the examiner will like to bring to the attention of the applicant that **Or** discloses a Wireless Application Protocol (WAP) Gateway Device that is managed through Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP) by using a Management Information Base (MIB). SNMP implements a collecting (i.e. polling) agent to collect specific types of data and information about the network device which is being managed; this data is then stored in a central database, where the management process can perform various actions and can collect and report the data according to a central MIB. Furthermore, the MIB monitors and controls various operational parameters relating to the WAP Gateway **(Abstract and par. 2-6)**. Moving on **Bowman-Amuah**, discloses service level management in a hybrid network architecture; where performance and service quality levels are managed in an attempt to meet goals/guidelines set forth in Service Level Agreements (SLA) and Quality of Service (QoS) standards. In doing so, **Bowman-Amuah**, disclose status reports and problem reports that and/or outage notifications; where performance capacity (i.e. node throughput) and utilization (i.e. processor utilization) are among a couple of the parameters that are monitored **(Abstract and Fig. 1B to1F-1)**. Therefore, the examiner asserts that **Or** in view of **Bowman-Amuah** reads on these limitations of the instant claims.

5. In response to B), the examiner respectfully disagrees. Applicant's recitation of the terms *configuration information* is broad, and as such can imply any information

relating to the operational limits and characteristics of a particular device. Therefore, the examiner asserts that **Or's** disclosure: of MIBs enabling network operators (i.e. SNMP) to perform such functions as configuring network devices, and determining the status (i.e. operational characteristics) of a network device and being able to change one or more parameter (i.e. operational limits/characteristics) within the device **(Abstract and par. 8-9)**; reads on this limitation.

6. In response, claims 14-23 recite language such as "adapted to" or 'configured to". These terminologies render the claim indefinite as the scope of the claim becomes open ended, undeterminable, and/or based upon intended use. Language that suggests or makes optional but does not require steps to be performed or does not limit a claim to a particular structure does not limit the scope of a claim or claim limitations.

It is this subject matter that must be examined. As a general matter, the grammar and intended meaning of terms used in a claim will dictate whether the language limits the claim scope. Language that suggests or makes optional but does not require steps to be performed or does not limit a claim to a particular structure does not limit the scope of a claim or claim limitation. The following are examples of language that may raise a question as to the limiting effect of the language in a claim:

(A) statements of intended use or field of use,

(B) "adapted to" or "adapted for" clauses,

(C) "wherein" clauses, or

(D) "whereby" clauses

(E) "configured to" clauses.

This list of examples is not intended to be exhaustive. See also MPEP § 2111.04. USPTO personnel are to give claims their broadest reasonable interpretation in light of the supporting disclosure. In re Morris, 127 F.3d 1048, 1054-55, 44 USPQ2d 1023, 1027-28 (Fed. Cir. 1997). Limitations appearing in the specification but not recited in the claim are not read into the claim. E-Pass Techs., Inc. v. 3Com Corp., 343 F.3d 1364, 1369, 67 USPQ2d 1947, 1950 (Fed. Cir. 2003) (claims must be interpreted "in view of the specification" without importing limitations from the specification into the claims unnecessarily). In re Prater, 415 F.2d 1393, 1404-05, 162 USPQ 541, 550551 (CCPA 1969). See also In re Zletz, 893 F.2d 319, 321-22, 13 USPQ2d 1320, 1322 (Fed. Cir. 1989) ("During patent examination the pending claims must be interpreted as broadly as their terms reasonably allow.... The reason is simply that during patent prosecution when claims can be amended, ambiguities should be recognized, scope and breadth of language explored, and clarification imposed.... An essential purpose of patent examination is to fashion claims that are precise, clear, correct, and unambiguous. Only in this way can uncertainties of claim scope be removed, as much as possible, during the administrative process.").

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 1-2, 4-6, 8-14,16-20, 23-26, 28- 31, 34- 36 and 38- 39 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Or et al.** (hereinafter **Or** U.S. Pub. No.: 2002/0067742 A1) in view of **Bowman-Amuah** (hereinafter **Bowman** U.S. Pat. No.: 6,556,659 B1 and further in view of **Turtialnen et al.** (hereinafter **Turtialnen** U.S. Pub. No.: 2002/0059516 A1).

9. Regarding **claims 1 Or**, discloses: A method comprising:

receiving at a gateway device a first communication from a first network that is addressed for a network element of a second network, where the second network is based on a different technology than the first network and where the gateway device comprises a layer 3 gateway **(Fig. 1 and par. 2-5; cellular network to Internet, WAP gateway)**;

transmitting the first communication from the gateway device to the second network **(Fig. 1 and par. 2-5; cellular network to Internet, WAP gateway)**;

receiving at the gateway device a second communication from the second network that is addressed for a network element of the first network **(Fig. 1 and par. 2-5; cellular network to Internet, WAP gateway)**;

transmitting the second communication from the gateway device to the first network **(Fig. 1 and par. 2-5; cellular network to Internet, WAP gateway)**;

periodically polling the gateway device to obtain operating parameters related to communications between the first and second networks, the operating parameters including at least two of information identifying Internet Key Exchange security associations (IKE SAs) no longer being used, information identifying node throughput,

information identifying a number of toggles between an active card and a standby card in the gateway device, or information identifying processor utilization in the gate way device **(Fig. 1 and par. 6- 8; SNMP and MIB setting and changing of parameters on network devices)**;

analyzing the operating parameters **(Fig. 1 and par. 6- 8; SNMP, TRAP command, management process collecting and reporting data and MIB)**.

However, **Or** remains silent on the specific teachings of generating a health report related to at least the gateway device, the health report being based upon analysis of the operating parameters.

In the same field of endeavor, **Bowman** discloses generating a health report related to at least the gateway device, the health report being based upon analysis of the operating parameters **(Abstract and Col. 48 line 52- Col. 50 line 67; status reports, problem reports, SLA violations and fault management)**.

Accordingly it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the networking art to modify or incorporate **Bowman's** teachings of status and problem reporting with the teachings of **Or** to provide for a more efficient management system (i.e. by providing a status report and notification it would make it easier for administrators and management protocols to better trouble shoot issues and problem handling).

Furthermore, **Or-Bowman** disclose the invention as disclose the invention as described above, however **Or-Bowman** do not appear to explicitly disclose wherein the operating parameters includes information identifying Internet Key Exchange security associations (IKE SAs) no longer being used.

In the same field of endeavor, **Turtialnen** discloses wherein the operating parameters includes information identifying Internet Key Exchange security associations (IKE SAs) no longer being used **(par. 4; Security Association Database where details on existing security association and security parameter indexes are maintained)**.

Accordingly it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the networking art to modify or incorporate **Turtialnen's** security association database (SAD) with the teachings of **Or-Bowman's** to provide for a more secure networking environment (i.e. by minimizing the interception of communications by an unwanted third party through the use of security keys).

10. Regarding **claim 2**, **Or-Bowman-Turtialnen** further discloses**:** where the polling of the gateway device to obtain operating parameters comprises obtaining information related to a flowcache **(Or: par. 25; IP tables for configuration and statistics, system parameters, interface tables, ARP tables and UDP tables)**.

One of ordinary skill in the art would have combined **Or-Bowman-Turtialnen** in the instant claim, for the same reasons and rationale as applied within **claim 1**.

11. Regarding **claim 3**, **Or-Bowman-Turtialnen** further discloses**:** where the polling of the gateway device to obtain operating parameters comprises obtaining information identifying IKE SAs no longer being used **(Turtialenen: par. 4; Security Association Database where details on existing security association and security parameter indexes are maintained)**.

One of ordinary skill in the art would have combined **Or-Bowman-Turtialnen** in the instant claim, for the same reasons and rationale as applied within **claim 1**.

12. Regarding **claim 4**, **Or-Bowman-Turtialnen** further discloses: where the polling of the gateway device to obtain operating parameters comprises obtaining node configuration information **(Or: Abstract and par. 8-9 and 25 and 28; changing one or more performance parameters within device and WAP configuration)**.

One of ordinary skill in the art would have combined **Or-Bowman-Turtialnen** in the instant claim, for the same reasons and rationale as applied within **claim 1**.

13. Regarding **claim 5**, **Or-Bowman-Turtialnen** further discloses: where the node configuration information comprises a number of layer 3 connections **(Or: par. 23- 25; network devices such as routers and WAP configuration)**.

One of ordinary skill in the art would have combined **Or-Bowman-Turtialnen** in the instant claim, for the same reasons and rationale as applied within **claim 1**.

14. Regarding **claim 6**, **Or-Bowman-Turtialnen** further discloses: where the node configuration information comprises a number of VPRN (virtual private routed network) connections **(Turtialnen: Par. 2-4; Virtual Private Network including one or more corporate LANs or intranets as well as the Internet and wireless mobile networks)**.

One of ordinary skill in the art would have combined **Or-Bowman-Turtialnen** in the instant claim, for the same reasons and rationale as applied within **claim 1**.

15. Regarding **claim 7**, **Or-Bowman-Turtialnen** further discloses: where the node configuration information comprises a number of IPSec tunnels **(Turtialnen: Fig. 2-5**

and par. 4 & 18; IPSec packet to be properly encapsulated and decapsulated, and tunneling data between respective end points).

One of ordinary skill in the art would have combined **Or-Bowman-Turtialnen** in the instant claim, for the same reasons and rationale as applied within **claim 1**.

16. Regarding **claim 8**, **Or-Bowman-Turtialnen** further discloses: where the first network comprises the Internet **(Or: Par. 2; Internet)**.

One of ordinary skill in the art would have combined **Or-Bowman-Turtialnen** in the instant claim, for the same reasons and rationale as applied within **claim 1**.

17. Regarding **claim 9**, **Or-Bowman-Turtialnen** further discloses: where the second network comprises at least one of a frame relay network, an asynchronous transfer mode network, private internet protocol network or an internet protocol virtual private network **(Turtialnen: par. 2-3 & 28; Virtual private networks)**.

One of ordinary skill in the art would have combined **Or-Bowman-Turtialnen** in the instant claim, for the same reasons and rationale as applied within **claim 1**.

18. Regarding **claim 10**, **Or-Bowman-Turtialnen** further discloses: where the gateway further implements a firewall function when transmitting communications between the first and second networks **(Turtialnen: Fig. 2-5 and par. 4 & 18& 27; IPSec packet to be properly encapsulated and decapsulated, and tunneling data between respective end points—gateways and firewalls)**.

One of ordinary skill in the art would have combined **Or-Bowman-Turtialnen** in the instant claim, for the same reasons and rationale as applied within **claim 1**.

19. Regarding **claim 11, Or-Bowman-Turtialnen** further discloses: where the analyzing the operating parameters comprises comparing the operating parameters to a threshold value **(Bowman: Fig. 1B and Abstract and Col. 1 lines 39-58; service level agreements and QoS standards)**.

One of ordinary skill in the art would have combined **Or-Bowman-Turtialnen** in the instant claim, for the same reasons and rationale as applied within **claim 1**.

20. Regarding **claim 12, Or-Bowman-Turtialnen** further discloses: further comprising setting a flag if the operating parameters exceed the threshold value **(Bowman: Fig. 1B & 1C and Abstract and Col. 1 lines 39-58; performance QoS and SLA monitoring)**.

One of ordinary skill in the art would have combined **Or-Bowman-Turtialnen** in the instant claim, for the same reasons and rationale as applied within **claim 1**.

21. Regarding **claim 13, Or-Bowman-Turtialnen** further discloses: where the comparing the operating parameters to a threshold value comprises comparing the operating parameters to a warning threshold value and also comparing the operating parameters to an augment threshold value **(Bowman: Fig. 1B -1D and Abstract and Col. 1 lines 39-58; performance QoS and SLA monitoring and Trouble Reports/Problem Handling, determine and Manage performance)**.

One of ordinary skill in the art would have combined **Or-Bowman-Turtialnen** in the instant claim, for the same reasons and rationale as applied within **claim 1**.

22. Regarding **claim 14,** and specifically the feature wherein the data including at least two of information related to flowcache configured to store connection information

(Or: par. 25; IP tables for configuration and statistics, system parameters, interface tables, ARP tables and UDP tables).

One of ordinary skill in the art would have combined **Or-Bowman-Turtialnen** in the instant claim, for the same reasons and rationale as applied within **claim 1**.

23. Regarding **claim 16**, **Or-Bowman-Turtialnen** further discloses**:** where the generating of the report comprises indicating whether any of the parameters indicate a possibility of a network instability **(Bowman: Abstract and Fig. 1B to1F-1; performance and trouble reports and operational parameters)**.

One of ordinary skill in the art would have combined **Or-Bowman-Turtialnen** in the instant claim, for the same reasons and rationale as applied within **claim 1**.

24. Regarding **claim 17**, **Or-Bowman-Turtialnen** further discloses**:** where the generating of the report comprises generating a report that has a warning flag if a parameter exceeds a first threshold and generating a report that has an augment flag if a parameter exceeds a second threshold **(Bowman: Fig. 1B -1D and Abstract and Col. 1 lines 39-58; performance QoS and SLA monitoring and Trouble Reports/Problem Handling, determine and Manage performance)**.

One of ordinary skill in the art would have combined **Or-Bowman-Turtialnen** in the instant claim, for the same reasons and rationale as applied within **claim 1**.

25. Regarding **claim 18**, **Or-Bowman-Turtialnen** further discloses**:** polling of the inter-network gateway to collect data related to the inter-network gateway comprises collecting data related to the flowcache **(Or: par. 25; IP tables for configuration and statistics, system parameters, interface tables, ARP tables and UDP tables)**.

One of ordinary skill in the art would have combined **Or-Bowman-Turtialnen** in the instant claim, for the same reasons and rationale as applied within **claim 1**.

26. Regarding **claim 19**, **Or-Bowman-Turtialnen** further discloses: where the parameters comprise statistics related to flows, predicted flows, connections, conversations and packets **(Bowman: Abstract and Fig. 1B to1F-1; performance and trouble reports and operational parameters)**.

One of ordinary skill in the art would have combined **Or-Bowman-Turtialnen** in the instant claim, for the same reasons and rationale as applied within **claim 1**.

27. Regarding **claim 20**, **Or-Bowman-Turtialnen** further discloses: where the polling of the inter-network gateway to collect data related to the inter-network gateway comprises collecting data related identifying the number of virtual private routed networks **(Turtialnen: par. 2-3 & 28; Virtual private networks)**.

One of ordinary skill in the art would have combined **Or-Bowman-Turtialnen** in the instant claim, for the same reasons and rationale as applied within **claim 1**.

28. Regarding **claim 21**, **Or-Bowman-Turtialnen** further discloses: where the polling of the inter-network gateway to collect data related to the inter-network gateway comprises collecting data identifying the number of IKE SAs not being used **(Turtialenen: par. 4; Security Association Database where details on existing security association and security parameter indexes are maintained)**.

One of ordinary skill in the art would have combined **Or-Bowman-Turtialnen** in the instant claim, for the same reasons and rationale as applied within **claim 1**.

29. Regarding **claim 22**, **Or-Bowman-Turtialnen** further discloses: where the parameters comprise a count of a number of dead IKE SAs **(Turtialenen: par. 4; Security Association Database where details on existing security association and security parameter indexes are maintained)**.

One of ordinary skill in the art would have combined **Or-Bowman-Turtialnen** in the instant claim, for the same reasons and rationale as applied within **claim 1**.

30. Regarding **claim 23**, **Or-Bowman-Turtialnen** further discloses: where the polling of the inter-network gateway to collect data related to the inter-network gateway further comprises at least one of collecting data identifying a number of card toggles, identifying CPU utilization or identifying memory utilization **(Bowman: Abstract and Fig. 1B to1F-1; performance and trouble reports and operational parameters)**.

One of ordinary skill in the art would have combined **Or-Bowman-Turtialnen** in the instant claim, for the same reasons and rationale as applied within **claim 1**.

31. Regarding **claim 25**, **Or-Bowman-Turtialnen** further discloses: where the computer-executable instructions operate operates on a UNIX-based operating system **(Or: par. 16; UNIX Operating system)**.

One of ordinary skill in the art would have combined **Or-Bowman-Turtialnen** in the instant claim, for the same reasons and rationale as applied within **claim 1**.

32. Regarding **claim 26**, **Or-Bowman-Turtialnen** further discloses: where the computer program code is automatically, periodically poll the gateways a SNMP connection with each of the gateways **(Or: Fig. 1 and par. 5-8; using SNMP managment)**.

One of ordinary skill in the art would have combined **Or-Bowman-Turtialnen** in the instant claim, for the same reasons and rationale as applied within **claim 1**.

33. Regarding **claim 29**, **Or-Bowman-Turtialnen** further discloses: wherein the computer code to write data is further to write raw data into a raw data file and to write summary data into a summary data file **(Or: par. 6-8; management process collects and reports data and the MIB actually defines the data)**.

One of ordinary skill in the art would have combined **Or-Bowman-Turtialnen** in the instant claim, for the same reasons and rationale as applied within **claim 1**.

34. Regarding **claim 30**, **Or-Bowman-Turtialnen** further discloses: where the computer program code to automatically transmit the report comprises computer program code to automatically transmit an ASCII file via e-mail **(Or: par. 2 and 17; e-mailing capabilities and suitable programming languages)**.

35. As per **claims 24, 27-28, 31- 39** they list the same elements as those found in **claims 1-14, 16-23, 25-26 and 29-30**, but in computer readable memory form rather than method form, and are therefore rejected using the same rationale as applied to **claims 1-14, 16-23, 25-26 and 29-30**.

36. As per **claims 31- 39** they list the same elements as those found in **claims 1-14, 16-23, 25-26 and 29-30**, but in apparatus form rather than method form, and are therefore rejected using the same rationale as applied to **claims 1-14, 16-23, 25-26 and 29-30**.

37. **Claims 3, 7, 15, 22, 27, 32- 33 and 37** rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Or-Bowman-Turtialnen** and further in view of **Gray et al.** (hereinafter **Gray** U.S. Pub. No.: 2008/0189353 A1).

38. Regarding **claim 3, Or-Bowman-Turtialnen** disclose the invention as discussed above.

However **Or-Bowman** remain silent on the specific teachings of polling the gateway device to obtain operating parameters comprises obtaining information related to an internet key exchange security association.

In the same field of endeavor, **Gray** discloses polling the gateway device to obtain operating parameters comprises obtaining information related to an internet key exchange security association **(par. 43; Internet Key Exchange(IKE))**.

Accordingly it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the networking art to modify or incorporate **Gray's** teachings of IKE with the teachings of **Or-Bowman** to provide for a more flexible and secure system.

As per **claims 15, 21-22, 32-33 and 37** they list substantially the same elements as those found in **claim 3** and are therefore rejected using the same rationale as applied to **claim 3**.

39. Regarding **claim 7, Or-Bowman-Turtialnen-Gray** further discloses: where the node configuration information comprises a number of IPSec tunnels **(Gray: par. 43; IPSec tunnels)**.

One of ordinary skill in the art would have combined **Or-Bowman-Turtialnen-Gray** in the instant claim, for the same reasons and rationale as applied within **claim 3**.

40. Regarding **claim 22**, **Or-Bowman-Turtialnen-Gray** further discloses: where the parameters comprise a count of number of dead IKE SAs **(Gray: par. 43; Internet Key Exchange)**.

One of ordinary skill in the art would have combined **Or-Bowman-Turtialnen-Gray** in the instant claim, for the same reasons and rationale as applied within **claim 3**.

41. Regarding **claim 27**, **Or-Bowman-Turtialnen-Gray** further discloses: where computer program code to automatically, periodically poll the gateways is further to initiate a CLI connection with each of the gateways **(Gray: par. 38 and 59; CLI)**.

One of ordinary skill in the art would have combined **Or-Bowman-Turtialnen-Gray** in the instant claim, for the same reasons and rationale as applied within **claim 3**.

Examiner Note: Examiner has cited particular columns and line numbers in the references as applied to the claims above for the convenience of the applicant. Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings of the art and are applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may apply as well. It is respectfully requested from the applicant in preparing responses, to fully consider the references in its entirety as potentially teaching of all or part of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior art or disclosed by the examiner.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MACEEH ANWARI whose telephone number is (571)272-7591. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 7:30-5:00 PM ES.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William Vaughn can be reached on 571-272-3922. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

M.A.
/William C. Vaughn, Jr./
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2444